

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 174006

55

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /038 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/MEX.:J.T.DREYFUSS:MRG

APPROVED BY ARA/MEX.:J.T.DREYFUSS

ARA/PAF:M.YOHN

----- 010000

P 141503Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 174006

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO EVENTS AT EXCELSIOR

1. JULY 14 WASHINGTON POST COMMENTED ON "COUP" AT EXCELSIOR IN FOLLOWING EDITORIAL ENTITLED QUOTE THE MAN WHO KILLED EXCELSIOR END QUOTE.

QUOTE: PRESIDENT LUIS ECHEVERRIA ALVAREZ OF MEXICO HAS CHOSEN A STRANGE WAY TO CALL ATTENTION TO HIS FINAL MONTHS IN POWER. HE HAS JUST MANAGED TO LIQUIDATE HIS COUNTRY'S ONE IMPORTANT INDEPENDENT CENTER OF POLITICAL CRITICISM, THE NEWSPAPER EXCELSIOR. ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM MEXICO CITY, HE IS PERSONALLY BEHIND THE CRUDE ECONOMIC PRESSURES AND THE NASTY STRONGARM TACTICS WHICH RESULTED IN THE OUSTER OF EXCELSIOR'S EDITOR, JULIO SCHERER, AND SOME 200 OF HIS LEADING STAFFERS. ABOUT THE ONLY MAJOR QUESTION STILL IN DISPUTE IN THIS EPISODE IS WHETHER PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA ACTED OUT OF HOSTILITY TO THE NEWSPAPER'S TANGY CRITICISM OF SOME, NOT ALL, OF HIS POLICIES, OR WHETHER HE ACTED, EQUALLY SQUALIDLY, TO ADVANCE HIS NEW FINANCIAL INTEREST IN A

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 174006

COMPETING NEWSPAPER GROUP.

THIS IS NOT JUST ANOTHER THIRD WORLD SITUATION IN WHICH A TINPOT DICTATOR SEEKS TO CLOSE OUT ALTERNATIVE INSTITUTIONS AND IDEAS. FOR MEXICO IS NO ORDINARY THIRD WORLD STATE. IT IS A COUNTRY WHICH, FOR ALL ITS ECONOMIC DISPARITIES, HAS SUSTAINED A SOPHISTICATED "WESTERN" INTELLECTUAL AND POLITICAL LIFE. THE PLAIN PROOF LIES IN THE PUBLICATION OF A NEWSPAPER LIKE EXCELSIOR, THE OLD EXCELSIOR, AND IN THE STABILITY OF A SYSTEM WHICH ALLOWS FOR THE ORDERLY ROTATION OF POLITICAL POWER. AT THE TOP, AT LEAST, MEXICO HAS BENEFITTED ENORMOUSLY, IN TERMS OF POLITICAL DIALOGUE AND SELF-IMAGE ALIKE, FROM CULTIVATING THIS TRADITION: IT HAS BEEN A VALUABLE SUBSTITUTE FOR A TWO-PARTY SYSTEM. MEXICO HAS ONLY ONE PARTY AND IT HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF CULTURAL VITALITY. IN THE PAST, MR. ECHEVERRIA HIMSELF HAS CONTRIBUTED IMPORTANTLY TO IT. AS HE PREPARES TO STEP DOWN, DOES HE REALLY WANT TO BE REMEMBERED AS THE MAN WHO KILLED EXCELSIOR? END QUOTE.

2. SAME EDITION OF POST CARRIED TERRI SHAW BYLINED ARTICLE HEADLINED "MURDER OF MEXICAN PAPER DESCRIBED" QUOTING ARMANDO VARGAS (WHO, ACCORDING TO ARTICLE HAS RESIGNED AS EXCELSIOR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT) TO EFFECT THAT "MURDER" OF EXCELSIOR ACCOMPLISHED TO PROTECT ECHEVERRIA'S POWER BASE AFTER HE LEAVES OFFICE. HE ALLEGED THAT ECHEVERRIA AND HIS ASSOCIATES (WITH FAUSTO ZAPATA PLAYING A LEADING ROLE) ARE "BUILDING UP A MEDIA EMPIRE EXPECTED TO WIELD GREAT INFLUENCE." KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NEWSPAPERS, EDITORS, JOURNALISTS, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE174006
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: J.T.DREYFUSS:MRG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760270-1195
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760758/aaaabzjn.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schaeafaj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 FEB 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <27 SEP 2004 by schaeafaj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REACTION TO EVENTS AT EXCELSIOR
TAGS: PFOR, MX, EXCELSIOR
To: MEXICO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006